

## FLORIDA IN THE EARLY DAYS.

## Campaign Days in the Twenties and Politics During Indian Times.

Reminiscences of old campaigns and life in the early part of the eighteenth century was the topic of conversation by Captain William Kendrick, better known as "Captain Bill," with a reporter of the Times-Union and Citizen a few days ago.

"Captain Bill" is seventy-five years old and has lived in Florida all his life—long before Florida became one of the states in the Union; or, as the aged gentleman expressed it, "in the territorial days."

Born on the banks of the Suwannee river, in 1823, his boyhood was spent among the cotton fields, listening to the songs of the plantation negroes and hunting among the hammocks and piney woods, which, in those days, abounded in game.

"I remember," said "Captain Bill," "coming through Jacksonville, in 1828, with my father. There was only one house in sight at that time and I guess it was the only house in Jacksonville. It was owned by a man named Hogans. My father blew his horn loud and long and a farm hand named Hendrick came out and bade us welcome to the house. We were then on our way to St. Augustine and I remember that when we arrived, we found just half a dozen families living there."

"And talking of politics, election days then were great times. There were no long tickets with thirty or forty names; everybody took a piece of paper and wrote the name of his candidate in pencil and the 'ballot box' was two hats, one inverted and placed over the other. The polls were opened at 10 o'clock and closed at 5. There were only two parties in the state then—Whigs and Democrats. My father was a Democrat, I was born a Democrat and have been one ever since. Well, after election was over, we used to gather around the store and wait for the returns from the local election; and then we always had to have some fights. Everybody fought with their fists; no knives or guns were used and after an argument the talkers would take off their coats and go at it in fine style, while everybody else stood by and cheered their favorite. Then everybody made friends and went away, having had a good time."

"The first delegate to congress from Florida was David Levy, who afterward had his name changed to Yulee, which was his mother's maiden name. There were only four state senators east and south of the Suwannee river. They were: Colonel Dancy, a man named Tracy, G. W. Ellis and George U. McClellan and in the election they ran against Judge Lancaster, Colonel Hanson and two other members of the Whig party. I remember this election well. I voted for Judge Lancaster on grounds of personal friendship, and when I ran for the legislature several years later, the fact that I had supported a Whig defeated me; but I will tell you all about that later."

"Candidates had a hard time in those days. I remember David Yulee coming to my father to borrow a mule on which he canvassed the state. Indians were around then, and they were warlike, having been driven away from their regular camps further south and a man canvassing the state with gun in hand and eyes and ears alert for the roaming savage, who hated the white man. Judge Putnam was the leading Whig in Florida in those days, and it was a hot campaign, which took nearly all summer; and then, when the vote was cast, there were not one thousand ballots in the box. But we lived a long way apart in territorial days. Then there was the wait for election returns. Sometimes it was a week before we heard from some of the precincts. There were not many railroads in the United States then, and the returns were coming in on horse or mule-back for three or four weeks. It was almost a year, sometimes, before we knew what had taken place in the states at the election; and in the territory some of the returns had to be brought hundreds of miles in a boat and on foot. Tampa bay was then in Alachua county and the county seat was Newnansville, which is now Gainesville."

"You know that Florida was largely settled by Georgians, North and South Carolinians and a few Virginians. When the Indian war broke out in 1835, we all had to fight and it was not until 1841 that the war ended and a treaty was made with Billy Bowlegs, who was then Chief of the Seminoles. He was to move south of Peace creek, which is near Bartow, and all whites were to keep north of the territory granted to him. Benton's 'Armed Occupation' act was then passed by the United States Senate and all persons who were able to bear and carry arms, were granted one hundred and sixty acres of land by the territorial government. I had one hundred and sixty acres granted to me and moved into Hernando county, which was then a portion of Alachua county. The county was still sparsely settled in 1844, and it was during that year that I entered politics. I ran for the legislature on the Democratic ticket, against Bradley, Democrat, and Lockhart, Whig. I was defeated by one vote: getting fifty-one votes, while each of my opponents received fifty-two. The men who did not vote for me used the argument that I had voted for Judge Lancaster, and would not give me their support."

"Well the funny part of that election follows: 'Both Bradley and Lockhart went to the legislature and both claimed the seat,

and the governor sent them both home, telling them that neither had been elected and so we were not represented in the legislature that year."

"My grant of one hundred and sixty acres was within one-quarter of a mile of what is now Dade City and I lived there for nineteen years. Florida was then a cattle-raising state, but we raised, in a small way, almost everything, and the women folks spun and wove their own cloth. I guess that Florida then produced more of what was consumed at home than she has ever done since, and, really, all we had to buy was coffee and salt."

"Then, the treaty after the six-years' war was broken, and another terrible war resulted, which lasted a year. In 1849, a white man named McCullough crossed the Peace river with his family and was building a log house, when the Indians swept down upon and massacred the entire family. Hundreds of Indians were killed and many whites saw the last of Florida at that time. It was not until a year later that peace was again declared, and Billy Bowlegs agreed to take his tribe south of the Caloosahatchee river, which he did and peace once more reigned."

"Again, the white man broke his faith with the Indian and again war was abroad in the land. Well do I remember that terrible report, which came to Fort Myers two days after Christmas. Christmas day word came to the military station at Fort Myers from the governor, ordering Lieutenant Hartsuff to take thirty-three cavalrymen and make an examination of the Everglades. The order was contrary to the treaty with the Indians, and the first night out several hundred Indians swept down upon the camp and massacred all except two and captured the horses. The two who escaped were Lieutenant Hartsuff—who jumped into a creek, where he lay all night among the alligators and water moccasins with nothing but his nose above the surface of the water—and another man, who swam across the creek and escaped in the darkness, bringing into Fort Myers the terrible news."

"A large, armed relief party was sent out to find the bodies of the massacred soldiers and bring in any that might have survived. Lieutenant Hartsuff was found, but he alone and the soldier, who had carried the news to the settlement, were all that escaped. War followed again and every man, who was old enough to fight, went out against the Indians, who were protecting their rights and who never broke an agreement they made."

"When the war was over, I again entered politics and was the first Democrat elected to the senate and served there seven sessions."

"I forgot to tell you about my own company of soldiers; I am getting old now, and get ahead of my story. January 1, 1856, I formed a company of soldiers, and we entered the United States service, serving two years and seven months. This was known as the Billy Bowlegs war."

"In 1845, the territory was taken into the Union, everybody being in favor of the change, and the election was as quiet and orderly as any election ever was."

"I am getting to be an old man now, but I would like well to live over the territorial days again."

"Oh, for one month of youthful joy. Give back to me my thirteenth spring. I would rather dance a bare-legged boy Than reign a gray-haired king."

## STOCK FOR SALE.

The following stock is offered for sale by the owner at very low prices, if taken at once:

One mare and fine colt, colt three months old, good blood, price \$100; one thorough-bred mare colt, one year old, \$60; one stallion colt, sixteen months old, \$35; one four-year old mare broken to harness and saddle, \$75; one pair of mules and wagon, \$225; one pair of heavy mules and wagon, \$250; one mule, \$75, guaranteed for all work and gentle; one yoke of cattle and wagon, \$75; three hundred head of hogs, in good order, \$400.

Also the following real estate: House and lot located near Titusville, ten acres, \$1,500; twenty acres pine land, part orange grove, fifty bearing trees, \$300; forty acres of hammock and orange grove on same, \$800; house and lot in North Miami, \$500.

For further particulars inquire at or address X, care STAR office, Titusville, Fla.

## Death of James A. Burtus.

James A. Burtus died at his home in Mims, Fla., Nov. 2nd, 1900. The immediate cause of his death was paralysis, although he had been in poor health for nearly two years, never having fully recovered from a severe attack of lagrippe.

Mr. Burtus belonged to a family who trace their descent to the earliest settlers of New York city, at which place he was born April 24th, 1831. He was educated at a private school in White Plains, N. Y. In 1861 he left New York city and settled in Orange county, N. Y., where he resided some years, going from there to the west, living in both Minnesota and Iowa. Finding the climate too severe he removed from the latter state to Florida in 1886, since which time he has lived at Mims. He is survived by one daughter, Mary A. Burtus.

The funeral was attended by the friends and neighbors of the deceased, with interment in LaGrange cemetery. Funeral services were conducted by Archdeacon B. F. Brown, rector of the Episcopal church, of which Mr. Burtus had been a life-long member.

## CASTORIA.

Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

## Nat. Walker is Married.

"Old Nat." R. Walker, a familiar figure in Florida legislatures and Democratic conventions, is no longer a widower. The story is:

He came up to Tallahassee on business one day last week and returned home to learn that his only daughter, Mattie, had married during his absence. Feeling lonely in the world, with his only child gone, Colonel Walker determined to follow his daughter's example, and it is said, that at an early hour Wednesday morning, the 31st ult., he was married to Miss Alice Tully and received the congratulations of his numerous friends.

## A Felon's Plea for Sympathy.

In the circuit court of appeals, the attorneys of ex-Secretary of State Caleb Powers, of Kentucky, who was convicted of being an accessory before the fact to the murder of Governor William Goebel and sentenced to life imprisonment, were granted an order compelling the clerk of the Scott county circuit court to furnish a copy of the record of Powers' trial free of cost. The affidavits of Powers and several of his friends were filed showing that he had expended all his fortune in his defense and is now a pauper. The time for filing Powers appeal from the judgment of the lower court sentencing him to life imprisonment, was extended until November 8.

## Weather Report.

SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER BY REV. JAS. H. WHITE, U. S. WEATHER OBSERVER.

Highest temperature on the 1st, 87.5; lowest temperature on the 18th, 70.0.

Mean for the month 76.8; average mean for 19 years, 74.7; highest mean for 19 years in 1887, 78.0; lowest mean for 19 years in 1891, 70.9.

Rainfall in inches, 5.23; average for 23 years, 6.31; greatest for 23 years in 1899, 21.88; least for 23 years in 1880, 1.33.

Prevailing direction of wind, northeast. Number of clear days, 17; number of fair days, 7; number of cloudy days, 7; number of days with rain, 16.

Island Home, Merritts Island, Fla.

## Criminal Court of Appeals.

Judge J. B. Wall in Times Union and Citizen:

"Regarding my views as to the best method of relieving the supreme court of its congested docket, I would say that there are two plans, either of which would, in my judgment, be feasible. The first is that proposed by the state convention: that of increasing the number of justices, say, to five. The second is the creation of a court of criminal appeals to consist of the circuit judges. By providing that three of them could hear and determine any case, I believe they could relieve the present supreme bench entirely of that branch of their work without seriously interfering with the work of their circuits. Of course this plan would necessitate an increase of salaries, but as I think it is generally conceded that their present compensation is inadequate and should be increased, this method would, in the end, prove the more economical of the two."

## Weekly Weather Report.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WEATHER BUREAU.

Comparative statement of temperatures and rainfall for the week ending Tuesday Nov. 6, 1900.

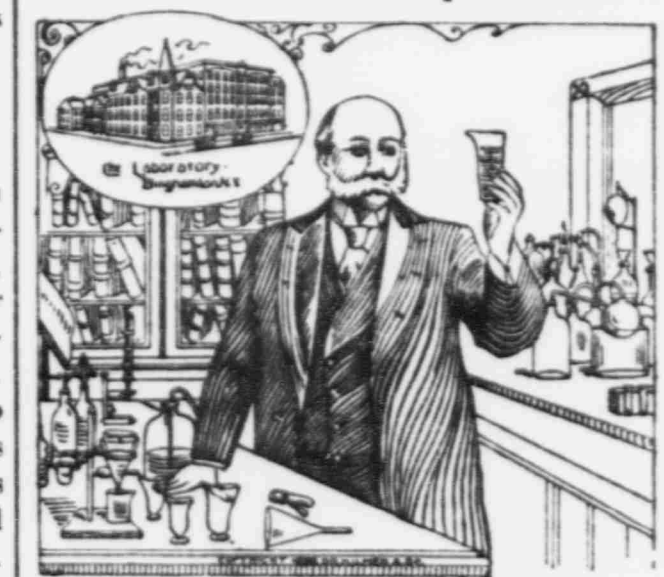
	1900		1899	
DATE.	MAX.	MIN.	MAX.	MIN.
Oct. 31.	82	77	77	62
Nov. 1.	83	76	80	64
" 2.	83	76	79	63
" 3.	82	75	81	66
" 4.	81	72	75	68
" 5.	80	65	77	68
" 6.	80	64	76	67

Total rainfall for the week, .13 inch. Departure from the normal rainfall for the week, minus .93 inch.

Departure from normal rainfall since Jan. 1st, 1900, minus 4.04 inches.

HAL P. HARDIN, Observer Weather Bureau, Jupiter, Fla., Nov. 6, 1900.

## The Eminent Kidney and Bladder Specialist.



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There is a disease prevailing in this country most dangerous because so deceptive. Many sudden deaths are caused by it—heart disease, pneumonia, heart failure or apoplexy are often the result of kidney disease. If kidney trouble is allowed to advance the kidney-poisoned blood will attack the vital organs, or the kidneys themselves break down and waste away cell by cell. Then the richness of the blood—the albumen—leaks out and the sufferer has Bright's Disease, the worst form of kidney trouble.

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